

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6947
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10596

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, EP, PERP, MMOL
SUBJECT: DEFENSE PRODUCTION-PROCUREMENT IN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

REF: BRUSSELS 10480

1. COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON, WHO LUNCHEDED PRIVATELY WITH ME
MAY 30, SAYS THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING CASE FOR A EUROPEAN
EFFORT IN THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION FIELD BUT THAT HE DOES
NOT EXPECT ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT TO HAPPEN. WHILE EUROPE
COULD MAKE A BETTER CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, PROMOTE WEAPONS
STANDARDIZATION, AND GET MORE DEFENSE BANG FOR THE BUCK
WERE IT ORGANIZED DIFFERENTLY, BUREAUCRATIC RESISTANCE BY
NATIONAL MILITARY ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS STANDS IN THE WAY.
THEORETICALLY A MAJOR POLITICAL PUSH IN THE COMMUNITY
FRAMEWORK COULD BRING RESULTS BUT DAVIGNON SAYS WHILE THE
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE RIGHT, THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS
LACKING AND THERE IS NO ONE AT THE SECOND LEVEL TO DRIVE
A REAL EFFORT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. HE HAD HOPED
THAT WISCHNEWSKI MIGHT UNDERTAKE THIS BUT SINCE HE MOVED
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TO THE CHANCELLERY FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BONN HE
IS SIMPLY NOT AVAILABLE. HE, DAVIGNON, MIGHT HAVE DONE
IT FROM THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT HE CAN'T DO IT
FROM THE COMMISSION WITHOUT STRONG SUPPORT WHICH IS TODAY
LACKING IN AT LEAST ONE IMPORTANT MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENT.
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE DISMISSES HIS OWN INTENDED
POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE KLEPSCH REPORT, WHICH WILL BE

BEFORE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN JUNE, AS ESSENTIALLY
NOTHING MORE THAN POSTURING. IT WILL KEEP THE IDEA
ALIVE BUT JUST BARELY. HINTON

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